

**Emergency Senate Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

**November 10, 2021**

**3:00 p.m.**

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/98782594838?pwd=RUgwSlInbXpja2d4enZvbC9rTzQ5Zz09>

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**Present:** David C. Bloom, Joe Glover, Taylor Rose, Sarah Lynne, Juan Nino, Angela Lindner, Rick Stepp, Richard Scholtz, Keith Diem, Amanda Phalin, Steve Orlando, Casey Griffith, Laurie Bialosky, Jason Byrd, Sylvain Doré, and Hessa Fernandez.

**Call to Order**

**David C. Bloom**, Chair

- The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Faculty Senate Chair David C. Bloom.

**Chair's Report**

**David C. Bloom**, Chair

**Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) Academic Freedom Resolution**

- This resolution, updated with a preamble, as discussed at the regularly scheduled Steering Committee meeting on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, was approved.

**Update on Special Ad hoc Committee on Academic Freedom**

- An update on the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Freedom was provided. This committee will serve in an information gathering capacity to review and help resolve issues related to a number of faculty who have shared that they have been restricted in performing outside activities and or have not been allowed to identify their UF affiliation in op-eds.

- Committee membership will be broad. Dr. Ray Issa, Distinguished Professor in the College of Design, Construction & Planning will chair the committee and concurs that the committee work will need to happen in an expedited fashion. Communications to faculty will be expeditious and the committee aims to complete its work in approximately three weeks or less.

**Update on Special Ad hoc Committee on Ladapo Hiring Process**

- Chair Bloom is finalizing appointments to an Ad Hoc Committee reviewing the hiring process of UF College of Medicine faculty member and newly appointed Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo, including examining if hiring was accelerated and if standard HR and hiring procedures were followed. This review will occur in a timely and transparent way.

**-Consideration of Moving Information Items from November Senate Meeting to December**

- Due to the breadth of the Faculty Senate agenda on November 18 and the expanding need to more urgently address academic freedom issues at the university, Chair Bloom suggest two options be considered: 1) push some current items to the December Senate meeting or 2) have a separate emergency Senate meeting at 3 p.m. one week from today which would deal only with academic freedom. It was discussed that option two provides an advantage of clearly separating and reducing any conflation of the pending COVID no confidence resolution with the currently reported issues of academic freedom violations and concerns. Logistically, an agenda could be posted today (seven days out) as required, and the Reitz Union Chamber Room and IT support team are available next Wednesday.

**Welfare Council Academic Freedom Resolution**

**David C. Bloom**, Chair

**Sarah Lynne**, Welfare Council Chair

- Welfare Council Chair Sarah Lynne described and reviewed the resolution crafted by the Welfare Council at its November 5 emergency meeting. The Steering Committee discussed the resolution's problematic final paragraph, including if the Association of American Universities (AAU) has a structure by which the suggested external audit could be performed. Clarification was provided that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) are questioning

if the university has followed its own internal policies. A series of SACSCOC questions have been sent to UF to assess if UF is following membership and accreditation standards. The Provost and President are responding to the inquiries per the established SACSCOC December deadline.

- Consideration was made to invite experts on academic freedom and law to campus to provide a report to the President.

- Apart from conflict of interest issues, attention should be given to examining the larger academic question of overall independence of academic freedom from the state government. Undue and micro-level and macro-level elements of the issue of academic freedom were discussed, as well as the university's shared governance structure.

- A motion to approve a [revised academic freedom resolution](#) incorporating today's discussed amendments carried.

**Approval of [November 18, 2021 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)     David C. Bloom, Chair**

- The agenda was approved as amended to strike the two academic freedom resolutions and move them to the [Wednesday, November 17 emergency Senate meeting agenda](#).

**Adjournment**

**David C. Bloom, Chair**

- The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.